

Lowcountry. Ella and Owen have raised over \$7,000 for the World Central Kitchen, which is an organization that provides food and nourishment to communities around the world in times of conflict, crisis, and war.

Ella and Owen are just one example of the type of compassion and empathy that we see each and every day in the Lowcountry. The great people of the Lowcountry show, not only to their fellow citizens, the State of South Carolina, our Nation, and around the world, there are no strangers they have ever met, and everyone is witnessing great hope for the future of Ukraine.

I hope that the story of Ella and Owen can serve as an inspiration to others who stand up for what is right, even when it seems like there is nothing that can be done in the face of hardship. They have shown hard work; they have shown that we need to do the right thing; and they have shown people that they care.

And now, more than ever, it is important that we do all we can to support our friends in Ukraine to help them during this critical crisis.

I again thank the Rogers family and the incredible work ethic that Ella and Owen have shown the Lowcountry and the State of South Carolina.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BOBBY BERKSTRESSER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of a good friend and Rockbridge County resident, Bobby Berkstresser, who recently passed away at the age of 71.

Bobby was truly a kind soul who had a passion for both people and business. In 1981, he purchased his first business, Lee Hi Travel Plaza, in Lexington. At the time, he had only eight employees on payroll, but over the years he grew it exponentially and was able to expand.

When Bobby passed, he employed more than 400 people, and his second business, White's Travel Center in Raphine was the largest east of the Mississippi, a fact of which he was definitely proud.

He brought honor and pride to the job and, in 2018, he was honored with the NATSO Hall of Fame Award for his contributions to the industry.

His employees say, "He was not only your boss, he encouraged you, and he was family to a lot of people." That was certainly how everyone felt about Bobby Berkstresser.

Aside from owning White's and Lee Hi, Bobby was deeply committed to his community. He regularly contributed to local nonprofits, in addition to serving on several boards, including the Bank of Botetourt, Rockbridge YMCA, Rockbridge United Way, Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors, former Carilion Stonewall Jackson Hospital,

RALS, Rockbridge Republican Committee, and NATSO.

Madam Speaker, it goes without saying that Rockbridge County lost a giant. His passing will be felt by this community for quite some time, and my thoughts and prayers remain with his wife, Sue, and his beloved family.

□ 1030

REJECTING THE BIDEN BUDGET

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, as Americans face the worst rate of inflation in 41 years, President Biden's proposed budget does nothing to help ease the burden on our country's struggling families.

Despite experts predicting that a recession is coming, the President's proposed budget would further exacerbate high inflation by spending \$73 trillion over the next decade and would be funded by the highest sustained tax burden in our Nation's history.

As Americans pay record prices at the pump, this budget proposal prioritizes radical Green New Deal energy policies and continues Biden's destruction of American energy independence with increased taxes on the oil and gas industry.

Who is going to feel those increased taxes? Working men and women in the Sixth District of Virginia and across this country. Further, it pushes unnecessary and already rejected Build Back Better social programs and provides benefits to illegal aliens, which is entirely unacceptable.

For my constituents in the Sixth District, I will continue to hold Biden administration officials accountable and demand justifications for this spending spree that is this budget when they come before the committees on which I serve.

Madam Speaker, I stand in strong opposition to the President's proposal, and I urge its rejection should it come before this House.

INVESTING IN SUCCESS OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, the America COMPETES Act of 2022 includes bold, smart, and strategic investments to power the success of America's workers, businesses, and economy based on bipartisan bills, many of which have already passed the House with bipartisan support.

Madam Speaker, for generations, America's innovation, from electricity to automobiles, robotics, and plastics, has shaped the course of history. We prevail because of our early investments in science, research, and technology.

But today, America's preeminence is being challenged. Other countries have followed our lead in research, science, and technology. As a result, more of

the technology that we are relying on today is made abroad, driving up the cost in the United States, contributing to inflation, threatening our workers' financial security and their jobs, and eroding our Nation's competitiveness.

The House's America COMPETES Act is precisely what is needed to ensure America's might in manufacturing and innovation while creating good-paying jobs and lowering costs for our Nation.

Our bill brings American manufacturing back to our shores, including \$52 billion for chips, which are crucial for making cars, cell phones, and more.

Our bill will help reinvigorate America's industries, securing \$45 billion to strengthen our supply chain and reduce dependence on foreign nations and lowering costs.

Our bill will invest in research and education so that we diversify our STEM workforce with apprenticeships.

Our bill will promote U.S. global leadership.

These are investments that all Americans need so desperately in order to obtain prosperity.

My colleagues and I look forward to swiftly going to conference with the Senate so we can put forth a strong bill that will help all Americans and put it on the President's desk to sign.

REAUTHORIZING THE FARM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the farm bill in 2023, I rise today to deliver the eighth installment of my farm bill impact series, where I am highlighting various aspects of the farm bill that deserve Congress' awareness and support.

The food aid programs within the farm bill not only support the nutrition of millions of Americans struggling with hunger, but they also help to stop global conflicts before they start.

Kansas is the Wheat State, and wheat is the number one commodity used in U.S. donations for international food aid. If you combine all the aid destinations, they amount to a top 10 market for U.S. wheat.

The last two farm bills have granted USAID flexibility in implementing aid programs, which has resulted in the U.S. purchasing from other countries more than half of the total food we give out.

That is a noble thing to use our resources to help hungry people overseas, but our government should prioritize the commodities of American farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers as we carry out this good work abroad.

International food assistance programs work alongside legislation to help stabilize countries ravaged by famine and war, reduce terrorism, and give people an alternative from fleeing their homeland just to find food.

For instance, I introduced a resolution condemning and prohibiting the